

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 SAM-01

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P 081647Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8671

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS GR

SUBJ: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE

REF A. CJUSMAGG 231346 APR 75 B. STATE 097045 (NOTAL)

C. ATHENS 2778 (NOTAL) D. STATE 065490 (NOTAL)

E. ATHENS 3341 F. CJUSMAGG 131345Z MAR 75

1. WE APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MUST GRAPPLE IN RESPONDING TO THE GOGO'S REQUEST FOR RENEWED GRANT MILITARY MATERIEL ASSISTANCE. NOT THE LEAST OF THESE IS THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF POSSIBLE RENEWED GRANT ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE US-GREEK SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY US BASE RIGHTS AND GREECE'S ROLE WITHIN NATO. HOWEVER, GREEK LEADERS PERCEIVE THEIR MILITARY NEEDS IN IMMEDIATE TERMS, AND WHILE WE MIGHT WELL NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY THESE NEEDS AS FULLY AND QUICKLY AS THE GOG WOULD WISH, WE BELIEVE US INTERESTS IN GREECE WOULD BE SERVED BEST BY REASONABLY PROMPT REPLIES, EVEN IF INTERIM, TO INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY THESE LEADERS, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REF A.

2. WHILE WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SURPRISES FROM THE GREEK SIDE IN OUR UNFINISHED NEGOTIATIONS
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ON BASE RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AT

SOUDHA AB, HELLENIKON, AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE, WE BELIEVE THE MAIN OUTLINES OF OUR RESTRUCTURED RELATIONSHIP ARE DISCERNIBLE. OUR FREEDOM TO UTILIZE GREEK FACILITIES IN CERTAIN CONTINGENCY OR NON-NATO SITUATIONS (SUCH AS ANOTHER MID-EAST WAR) WILL BE CIRCUMSCRIBED, BUT NO MORE THAN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE REALITIES OF RECENT YEARS, WHETHER INTERPRETED BY AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS OR THE RESTORED DEMOCRACY. THE GOG WILL ALSO WISH TO ARRIVE AT AGREEMENTS WITH US THAT PERMIT IT TO KEEP BETTER-INFORMED ON WHAT THE US FORCES DO IN AND FROM GREECE, AND TO CONTROL THE ALTERATION OF MISSIONS OR GROWTH OF THE FORCE. THSE, AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS, SHOULD NOT PROVE TOO DIFFICULT TO LIVE WITH, AND IF UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL A FACTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INABILITY TO RESPOND TO GOG QUERIES, WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS SUCH.

3. WE CANNOT ADDRESS THE INHIBITIONS WHICH MIGHT STEM FROM THE AS YET UNDEFINED NATURE OF GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. IF THIS IS A REAL PROBLEM, THEN WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO INFORM THE GOG, WHICH MIGHT FEEL IMPELLED TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF A PROCESS THEY HAVE HARDLY BEGUN.

4. REF E DESCRIBES LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF A REUTERS STORY FROM WASHINGTON DETAILING SUMS ALLEGEDLY BEING SOUGHT FOR FMS AND GRANT MATERIEL ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY. IF THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS REPORT, WE BELIEVE THE GOG SHOULD HEAR THE FACTS FROM EITHER THE DEPARTMENT OR THIS EMBASSY AND WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF WHICH WE MIGHT ENLIGHTEN THE GOG. WE HOPE THAT AS A MINIMUM CJUSMAGG SOON WILL RECEIVE A RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS POSED TO HIM BY GEN. ARBOUZIS AND REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF A. KUBISCH

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